

Arsenal Area Children Again Pose Problem

What to do about youngsters of elementary school age in the munitions area?

This was just one of the many problems with which County Superintendent of Schools Louis F. Bottino was faced during the opening week of school. And yet for the superintendent it is not really a problem because the law provides that the elementary youngsters are to attend the Elwood school.

Legally they belong to Elwood," he explained. "And if they don't go to the Elwood school, the government will not pay their tuition elsewhere unless the Elwood school grants a release."

THE ELWOOD school is reluctant to grant such releases to one or two students, fearing that the majority of children in the munitions area then will demand releases to attend school elsewhere, depriving it of considerable income. Hence the district is refusing releases to all.

The ruling applies only to elementary youngsters. Kindergarten and high school children are not affected as there are no classes for them in the Elwood school.

Most of the children are satisfied, but an exception is the child of one of the arsenal officers. The officer is desirous of having his child attend the Joliet grade schools. His superiors contacted the county superintendent. They even called Springfield. And always it was the same answer. "If you pay the fee, the child can attend, but not otherwise."

STILL ADAMANT, one of the supervising officers at the arsenal now believes there is an army provision that allows for the payment of tuition in some instances. He plans to investigate.

The county superintendent said it was immaterial to him where the youngster attended school.